

UNCLASSIFIED

Iraq

Status Report

November 12, 2009



Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
U.S. Department of State

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HIGHLIGHTS



- **COR Passes Election Law for the January General Election (*POLITICAL*, page 4).**
- **International Media Report that the Iraqi Cabinet Approves ExxonMobil Agreement to Develop West Qurna Oil Field (*ECONOMIC*, page 9).**
- **Egypt's New Ambassador to Iraq, Sharif Kamal Shahin, Arrives in Baghdad (*DIPLOMATIC*, page 14).**
- **Fifty Women Graduate from Baghdad Police College (*SECURITY*, page 15)**

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

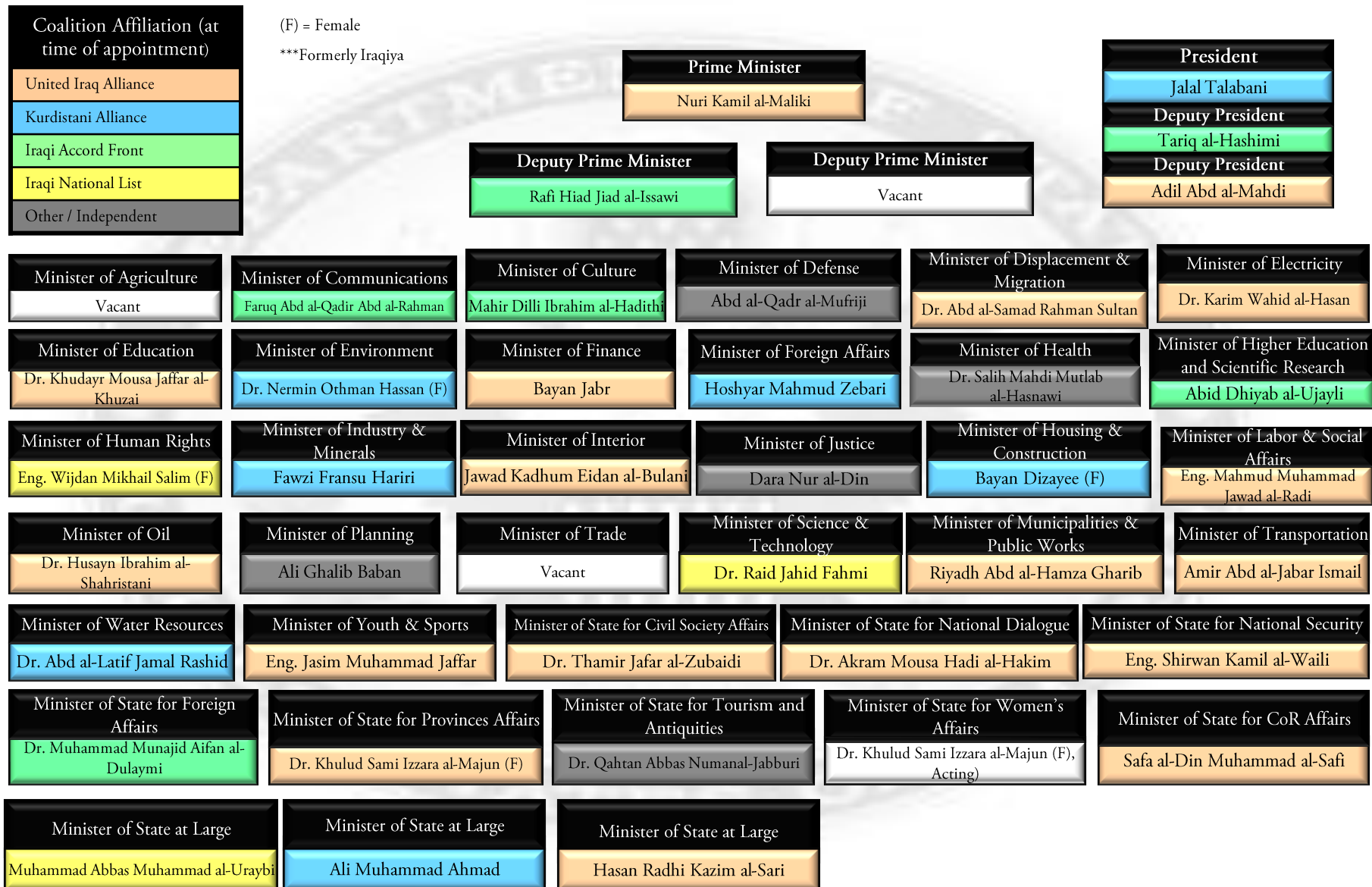


COR passes election law, IHEC sets election date

Election Law Passed:

- On November 8, the Iraqi Council of Representatives (COR) passed the election law required to move forward with the upcoming national election. Faraj al-Haidari, head of Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), also announced that the Iraqi Presidency Council approved Iraq's general election to take place on January 21. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki hailed the election law's passage as a "historic victory of the will of the people," and described it as a strong response to the forces that are trying to undermine the country's security.

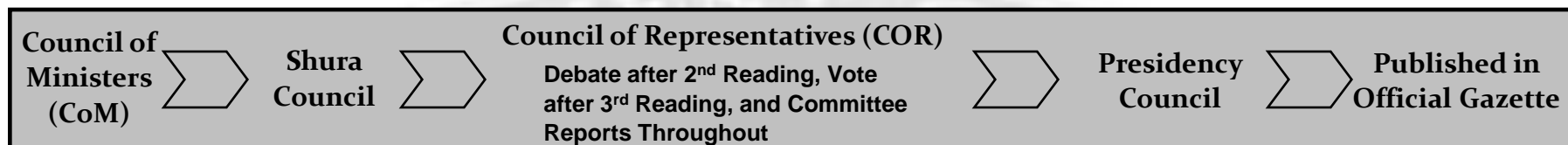
POLITICAL – Government of Iraq





POLITICAL – Key Legislative Issues

Legislative Process



- **Hydrocarbons Package:** The Framework Law was resubmitted to the Oil and Gas Committee on October 26, 2008 and then returned to the Council of Ministers. There has been no progress on the other three laws in the package.
- **NGO Law:** This law will regulate the operations and funding of Non-Governmental Organizations operating within Iraq. It received its first reading in the Council of Representatives on April 20, 2009.
- **National Elections Law:** The Election Law was passed by the COR on November 8, 2009.

POLITICAL - Refugee Update



- **There are 295,304 Iraqi refugees currently registered with UNHCR in neighboring countries. There are likely significant numbers of unregistered refugees as well. UNHCR reports that 1.5 million Iraqis displaced by sectarian violence following the Samarra Mosque bombing of February 2006 remain internally displaced in Iraq.**
- **In FY09, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration contributed \$ 303.4 million to international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to assist displaced Iraqis inside the country and in the region.**
- **The U.S. admitted 18,838 Iraqi refugees in FY09.**
- **Since the program's inception in FY07, 35,422 Iraqi refugees have been admitted for U.S. resettlement.**
- **As of June 2009, a total of 770 Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) have been issued for Iraqi translators and interpreters since FY08 (under the Section 1059 program).**
- **As of June 2009, a total of 2,081 SIVs have been issued for Iraqis employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government since FY08 (under the Section 1244 program).**
- **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced July 24 that the United States was contributing more than \$100 million in new assistance to support the return and reintegration of displaced Iraqis.**

ECONOMIC – Oil



Oil prices are rising, but exports below 2009 targets

Crude Oil Update:

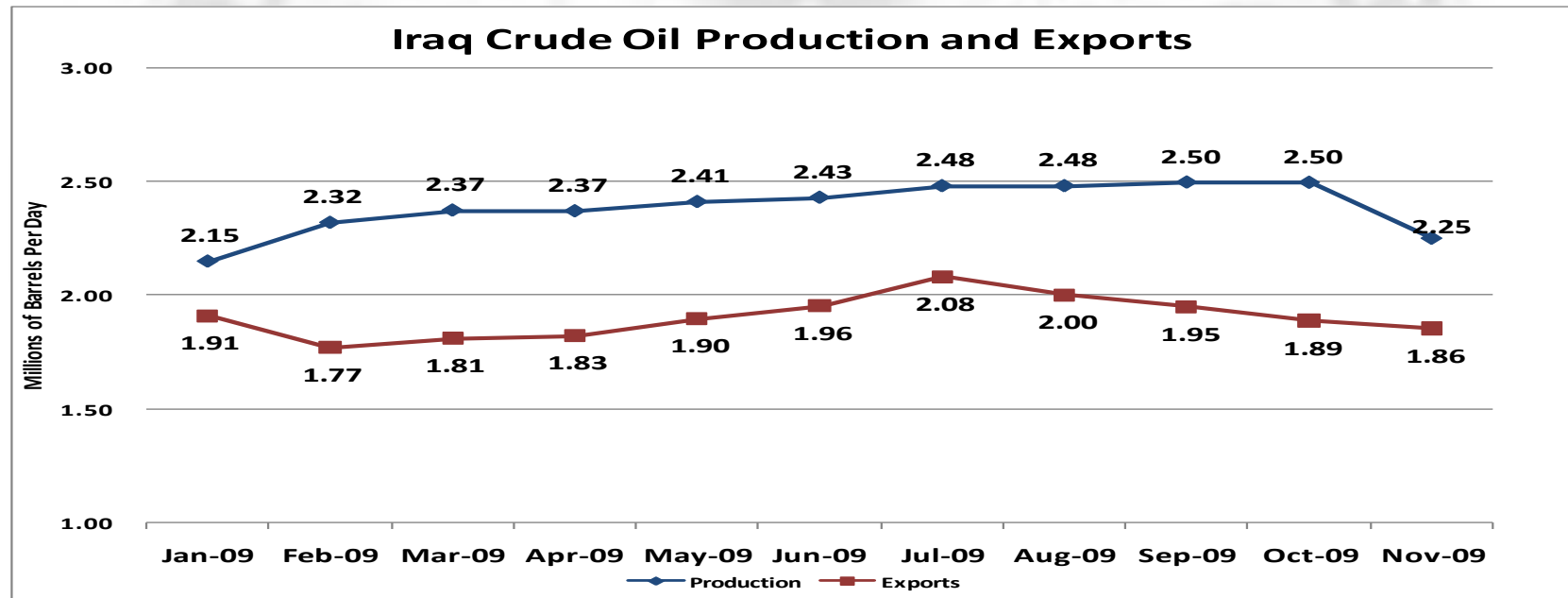
Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$75.23/barrel

Dated Brent at \$76.95/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$79.04/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$77.75/barrel



Revenue estimates:

2007: \$41.0 Billion

2008: \$61.9 Billion

2009 (ytd): \$29 Billion

*Approximate estimate.

ECONOMIC – Oil



The GOI awarded contract to ExxonMobil to develop the West Qurna Oil field

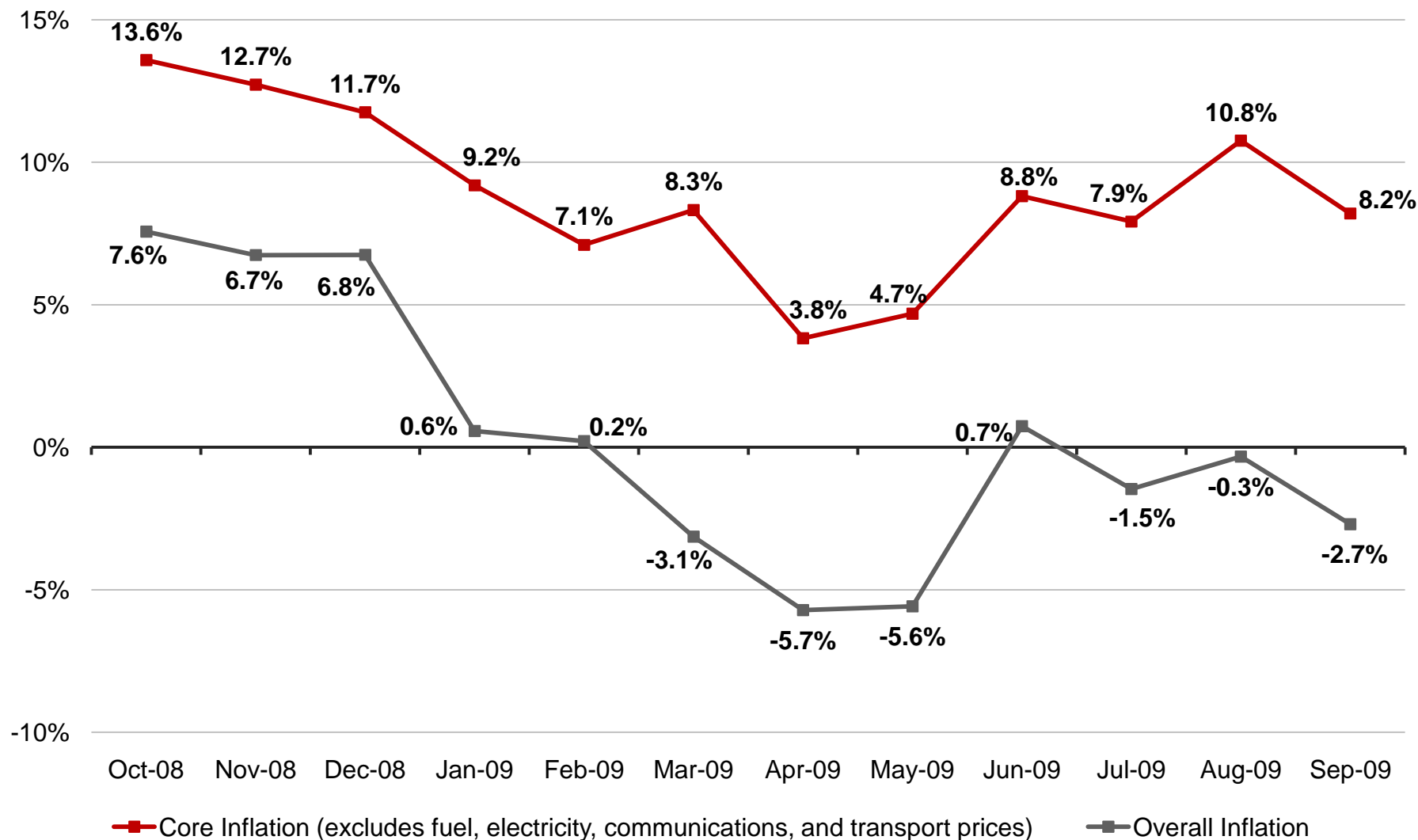
International Media Report that the Iraqi Cabinet Approves ExxonMobil Agreement to Develop West Qurna Oil Field:

- On November 10, international media reported that Iraq's Cabinet had approved the ExxonMobil deal to develop Iraq's West Qurna oil field. A consortium led by U.S. oil firm ExxonMobil was awarded a contract to develop Iraq's West Qurna Phase 1 two days after the consortium of BP and CNPC signed a final agreement to develop the Rumaila oilfield. ExxonMobil will be partnered with Anglo-Dutch firm Royal Dutch Shell. ExxonMobil is the first American firm to win an oil contract in Iraq.

ECONOMIC - Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



Year-on-Year Inflation



ECONOMIC – Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



Negotiations continue between Iraq and the IMF over \$5.5 billion loan

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD)	\$75.30	\$76.67	\$76.79	\$66.08
Yield	8.48%	8.31%	8.31%	10.96%

ECONOMIC – Public Sector

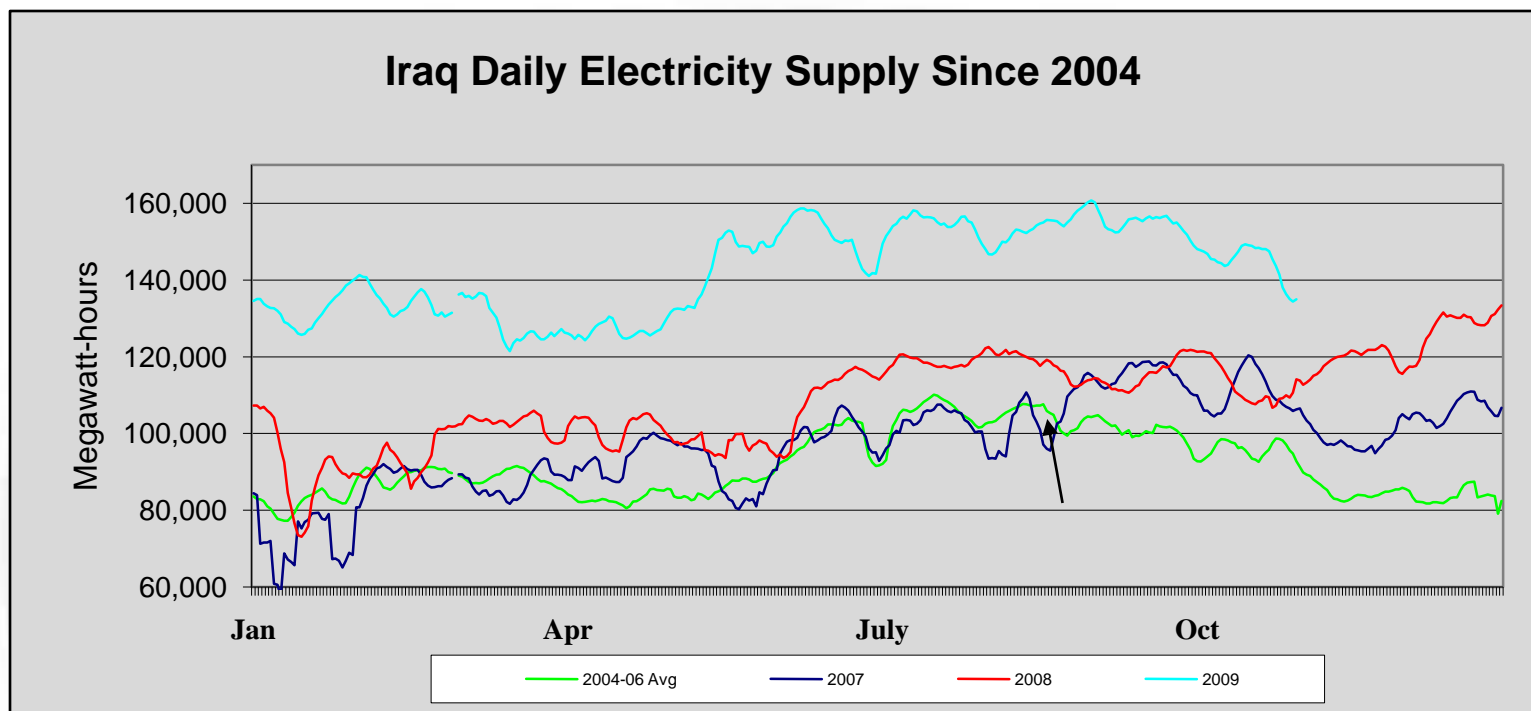


Iraqi Airways is expected to resume Baghdad-Paris flights

State-Owned Iraqi Airways to Resume Baghdad-Paris Route:

- **Iraqi Airways will resume direct flights between Baghdad and Paris. The state-owned airline is expected to sign an agreement with French authorities in mid-November to resume weekly flights between the two cities. The resumption of flights was prompted by the drop in violence and a rise in investor interest.**

Public Services – Electricity



- Electricity supply from the grid November 3-9 was 14% above the year-earlier period and met 74% of estimated demand, compared with 68% for the earlier period.
- Although still substantial, year-on-year supply increase has declined from the 25%-40% level typical earlier this year. As the graph shows, 2008 supply increased during the fall and winter but this year has shown its usual post-summer decline.

DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement



Egyptian Ambassador arrives in Iraq

Egyptian Ambassador Arrives in Baghdad:

- Egypt's new Ambassador to Iraq, Sharif Kamal Shahin, arrived in Baghdad on November 7. Shahin is the first Egyptian representative in the country since 2005, when the Egyptian Ambassador to Iraq was assassinated. Egypt's foreign ministry spokesman has described the move as an "important step to promote relations between the two Arab countries."

SECURITY – Transition



Iraqi Police continue to strengthen their ranks with new graduates

Fifty Women Graduate from Baghdad Police College:

- Baghdad Police College (BPC) graduated the first group of female police officers from the nine-month long basic course. Fifty women graduated from the class of 1,000 police officers. Dozens of senior Iraqi political leaders, U.S. diplomats, and Iraqi and U.S. military officers attended the ceremony. The director of the Baghdad Police College, Iraqi Major General Jassim, said he was very proud of the graduating women and that “this was very difficult training and these women performed to the same high standards that we set for our male officers.”

Beyond Baghdad



RRT Erbil tours flooded area

Erbil

Anbar

Muthanna

“...we will help Iraq's institutions strengthen their capacity to protect the rule of law, confront corruption, and deliver basic services.”

President Barack Obama

Recent Highlights

Members of RRT Erbil visited the flooded area of Mergasoor in northern Erbil. The RRT team leader met with the district Peshmerga commander and the mayor of Mergasoor and was briefed on the areas that had flooded and the resulting damage. The mayor also expressed his gratitude for U.S. assistance which provided much-needed blankets, kerosene lamps, and building materials. Four Kurdish television stations covered the meeting at the mayor's office as well as the accompanying tour of the devastated areas. The RRT's visit was also covered on live radio.

Seventeen people attended the Fallujah ePRT Land O' Lakes dairy train-the-trainer session. The program covered cattle obstetrics and other aspects of dairy farming. The trainees also presented material in 250 families who had received dairy training from previous session graduates.

PRT Muthanna reported that 42 women participated in a recent computer training course that focused on graphics, using the internet, and basic Windows skills. This program is expected to benefit hundreds of women and create short-term jobs. A local television station was on site conducting interviews and covering the training activities. The segment is expected to air shortly.



CONTACT INFORMATION

This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.

For additional information, please see:

- Department of State, Section 2207 Report on Iraq Relief and Reconstruction
<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/>
- Department of State, Section 1227 Report on Iraq
<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/>
- Department of Defense, Section 9010 Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq
http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/Iraq_Reports/index.html

Please forward all questions and/or comments to:

NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov



NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)

Slide 4:

- AFP, AP, November 10, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20091109/wl_mideast_afp/iraqvote_20091109160702, http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091109/ap_on_re_mi_ea/ml_iraq_11_aq

Slide 5-7:

- Department of State, NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slides 8:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economics Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

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- AP, November 10, http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jUgnf_h1tymdmTHrMf8uSi8NkDPgD9BSL2S80 ; AFP, November 5, <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jFKCBWaITXV5FJ9oNVfhsoxu9rpQ>

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- Department of State, NEA/I Economics Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 11:

- Department of State, NEA/I -IPOG, NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

Slide 12:

- Reuters, November 9, <http://www.reuters.com/article/featuredCrisis/idUSL9136020>



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Slide 13:

- Department of State, NEA/I -IPOG, NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

Slide 14:

- AFP, November 9, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20091107/wl_africa_afp/egyptiraqdiplomacy

Slide 15:

- MNF-I, November 10, http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28613&Itemid=21

Slide 16:

- Source for Stories: NEA/I-PRT Pillar, RRT Erbil, November 9, 2009
- -PRT Weekly Summary, October 24-31, 2009
- -PRT Weekly Summary October 24-31, 2009
- -Source for President Obama's Quote: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/